DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 179 053 EC 122 050

AUTHOR	Bane, David C., Jr., Ed.; And Others
TITLE	Wait No Longer. Report of the First National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped and the Dedication Ceremonies of White Oak Village of Mountwood Park.
INSTITUTION	Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission, W.Va.
SPONS AGENCY	Rehabilitation Services Administration (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	78
NOTE	68p.
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Day Care Programs; *Handicapped; Parks; Program Development; Recreation; *Recreational Facilities; *Recreational Programs
IDENTIFIERS	*White Oak Village (West Virginia)

ABSTRACT

The document offers proceedings of the First National Conference on Special Recreation for the handicapped which coincided with the dedication of White Oak Village/Mountwood Park (West Virginia), a recreational facility designed to serve as a national model for meeting the recreational needs of the handicapped. An introductory paper by E. Lehew and D. Bane reviews the history, mission, and program of Mountwood Park and White Oak Village. Other entries include the following titles and authors: "Making the Dream of Recreation for Handicapped a Reality" (J. Rockefeller); "Equity in Recreation for the Handicapped" (H. Russell); "Quality of Life--Recreation and Handicapped People" (R. Humphreys); "Milestones in Recreation for the Handicapped" (H. Moore); "Recreation and the Handicapped--The Unfinished Challenge" (H. Viscardi, Jr.); and "White Oak Village--The Turning Point in Special Recreation for the Handicapped" (J. Nesbitt). Texts of dedication speeches for White Oak Village are also given, as is a list of speakers, reactors, and planners. (SBH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED179053

Wait No Longer

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Papers By

David C. Bane, Jr.
Edward R. Lehew
John D. Rockefeller, IV
Harold Russell
Robert R. Humphreys
Hope T. Moore
Henry J. Viscardi, Jr.
John A. Nesbitt
Robert H. Mollohan
Jennings Randolph

Report of the
First National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped
and the
Dedication Ceremonies
of
White Oak Village of Mountwood Park
A Regional Activity and Recreation Center for the Handicapped
Supported (Funded) by a Grant from the
Rehabilitation Services Administration
of the
U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Edited by

David C. Bane, Jr.
Larry S. Ford
Shirley Lehew

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Thora Regan

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Sponsored by

Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission
Wood County, West Virginia

Mountwood Park
Edward R. Lehew, Director

White Oak Village
David C. Bane, Jr., Director

EC122050

Gratitude is expressed to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation whose support made possible both the First National Conference on Special Recreation and this Report.

Table of Contents

Page

Foreword..... i

Acknowledgments..... ii

Part I

The Conference

History, Mission and Program of Mountwood Park and White Oak Village.... 1

Invocation..... 9

Welcoming Remarks - Making the Dream of Recreation for Handicapped A Reality..... 10

Equity in Recreation for the Handicapped..... 11

Quality of Life: Recreation and Handicapped People..... 16

Milestones in Recreation for the Handicapped..... 20

Recreation and the Handicapped: The Unfinished Challenge..... 26

White Oak Village: The Turning Point in Special Recreation for Handicapped..... 30

Part II

The Dedication

Invocation..... 37

Opening Remarks - Creating a National Policy of Meeting the Recreation Needs of Handicapped People..... 38

White Oak Village: A Unique, National Monument Dedicated to a Fullness of Life for All..... 40

White Oak Village...Mountwood Park's Crown Jewel..... 43

The Dawn of Equal Access to Recreation..... 46

Directory of Speakers, Reactors and Planners..... 47

FOREWORD

A society can be judged by the concern it manifests for its less fortunate members. As a singular achievement on behalf of the handicapped among us White Oak Village speaks a forceful commitment for all of us.

The product of inspiration, energy, and leadership from the local to the national level, this Regional Activity and Recreation Center for the Handicapped situated in Mountwood Park, stands as an inspiration to all in need across this land and those at their sides who seek to serve. This testimony to human spirit and achievement augurs well for future replication of this White Oak Village concept so that even greater numbers of the handicapped will benefit directly.

The First National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped called to coincide with the dedication of White Oak Village offers excellent statements of accomplishment of the past, issues of the present, and challenges for the future. The needs of the handicapped are acknowledged a national priority. White Oak Village and the First National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped are beacons pointing the way. Society's response must be commensurate with the challenge. We can, "Wait No Longer."

William L. Kissick, M.D., Dr. P.H.
George Seckel Pepper Professor or
Public Health and Preventive Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Acknowledgment of the Planning Committee and Key Staff Personnel

Planning Committee

Kissick, William M.D.
Professor of Public Health & Preventive Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Latuchie, Dick
Managing Director
GLS Associates

Nesbitt, John A. Ed.D.
Professor of Recreation Education
and Director
National Institute on Special Recreation
University of Iowa

Bane, David C. Jr.
Director, White Oak Village
Mountwood Park

Lehew, Edward R.
Executive Director
Mountwood Park

Lehew, Shirley
Executive Assistant
Mountwood Park

Key Staff Personnel

Gault, Dwight
Superintendent of Operations & Maintenance
Mountwood Park

Region, Mona
Public Relations Representative
Mountwood Park

Rhodes, Don
Maintenance Foreman
Mountwood Park

Ford, Larry S.
Program Scheduler, White Oak Village
Mountwood Park

Testa, Sandra R.
Accountant
Mountwood Park

Manuscript Typist

Sanda Stumpf
Executive Secretary, White Oak Village
Mountwood Park

The History, Mission and Program

of

Mountwood Park and White Oak Village

Ed Lehew
Executive Director
Mountwood Park

and

David C. Bane, Jr.
Director
White Oak Village

I. INTRODUCTION

Mountwood Park is operated under the authority of the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission, which was established in December, 1970. Development of Mountwood Park, which is now 2,600 acres, began in 1974 and we anticipate completion of the entire $40 million recreational complex sometime during 1983.

One of our underlying beliefs from the beginning has been that recreation opportunities should be available for all people. The development of White Oak Village, as an integral part of Mountwood Park, grew out of our belief that it would facilitate the mainstreaming of handicapped individuals into the normal activities as well as provide special programs and services for those who desired them. As planning progressed it became clear that accessibility meant not simply the elimination of physical barriers but also the development of a number of program services including special residential facilities, physical accommodations, transportation, and staff who would be prepared to meet the needs of handicapped people.

White Oak Village grew from our original plan for a day camp. We conferred with many diverse groups, and began to see that not only were recreational opportunities for the handicapped lacking in this area, but indeed no state had effectively planned for offering these opportunities. Upon learning this, the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission with the wholehearted support of the people of Wood County, decided to build the biggest, most attractive, best equipped, best furnished and best operated facility that they could possibly manage. They would share it with as many handicapped as the facility would be capable of serving.

Representing the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Lehew went to Washington to meet with key members of the West Virginia Congressional delegation to determine how Federal assistance might be obtained to build what we knew would be a very costly facility. Participating were the state's two United States Senators, Jennings Randolph and Robert C. Byrd, and Congressman Robert H. Mollohan, who represents Parkersburg in the House of Representatives. After extensive meetings with these legislators, they gave their full approval to our plans and decided if there was no specific authority for the Federal Government to build facilities such as this, then authority would have to be provided legislatively.

Accordingly, with full support from Senator Byrd and Congressman Mollohan, Senator Randolph, who is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped, added language to Section 304 (b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide legislative authority to fund the construction of a series of demonstration facilities of the type planned for Mountwood Park.

Over the course of the next two years, our congressional delegation worked together on our behalf so that appropriations totalling $4.2 million were finally realized for White Oak Village. And so it was the Mountwood Park's proposed Day Camp evolved into the magnificent facility, White Oak Village, a new concept in serving handicapped people.

The White Oak Village/Mountwood Park experience along with the other proposed demonstrations will serve as models for the rest of the nation of how recreational opportunities for the handicapped can be started, expanded, and improved.

Over the last three years the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission members and Mountwood staff have studied a wide range of options relative to the basic goals and objectives of Mountwood Park and White Oak Village.

Initially we contacted as many interested parties in our own area as we could locate to determine the types of activities that we would offer. We had an opportunity through the White House Conference to receive ideas from literally hundreds of people who are handicapped about our proposed plans and program.

The project officer from the Regional Office of Rehabilitation Services, Dr. Ralph N. Pacinelli, provided us with much useful guidance. Through the good graces of the Benedum Foundation, we were able to assemble a consultant team which is now assisting us in developing the Mountwood Special Recreation Management Plan. The consulting team is headed by William L. Kissick, M.D., Professor of Preventive Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and includes John A. Nesbitt, Ed.D., Professor of Recreation Education, University of Iowa and Director of the National Institute on Special Recreation, and Richard S. Latuchie, Managing Director of GLS Associates, Inc. a management consulting firm from Philadelphia.

Various other individuals, too numerous to mention, have given us valuable assistance. We thank all of them deeply and appreciate their help.

Using all of the information made available to us, and with the aforementioned assistance, we are in the process of implementing the following goals, objectives and mission for White Oak Village/Mountwood Park.

II. GOAL

The basic goal of White Oak Village/Mountwood Park is to enhance function and fulfillment for the handicapped individual at the highest possible level through play, recreation, and leisure.

III. OBJECTIVES

The basic objectives of special recreation at Mountwod Park and White Oak Village for the person who is handicapped are:

- Achievement of enjoyment, satisfaction, and fulfillment by the handicapped participant at the highest level possible;
- Achievement of equality of opportunity in leisure, the arts, recreation, parks, and culture by the participant who is handicapped;
- Mainstreaming to the maximum extent possible, into the everyday recreation activities; and
- Support for medical, educational, social, or vocational rehabilitation plans and programs which have been developed for the handicapped individual or group.

IV. MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF WHITE OAK VILLAGE/MOUNTWOOD PARK

A. White Oak Village/Mountwood Park Special Recreation Services

It is planned that White Oak Village/Mountwood Park will serve primarily the recreational needs for residents of West Virginia and its neighboring area. This program of services:

- Provides special recreation opportunity to people who are handicapped and their primary social group i.e. family and close friends. The primary geographic area served is West Virginia and the adjacent states although there is no geographical restriction whatsoever placed on participants. The primary program modules provided include: arts, boating, camping and campcraft, careers in recreation and leisure, crafts, recreation consumerism and advocacy, cultural activities, dance, drama, educational activities, entertainment, fitness, free play, games, hobbies, personal leisure management, music, nature study, outdoor recreation, social recreation, recreation leadership, sports, swimming, tourism and voluntary service.

- Provides participants with the opportunity for skills instruction in recreation and leisure activities, personal leisure management, recreation consumerism and advocacy, special recreation leadership in the community, careers in recreation and leisure service, etc.

- Provides individual participants with an opportunity for recreation and leisure counseling including recreation and leisure skills assessment, leisure values clarification and leisure planning, i.e. plan includes gaining new recreation skills, using recreation resources and changing recreation lifestyle.

- Provides technical assistance to participant's community agency or institution in the form of information, advice on program development, program resources, follow-up on White Oak Village/ Mountwood Park experience.

B. White Oak Village/Mountwood Park Special Recreation Research and Demonstration Program

It is planned that this research and demonstration function will serve as a regional and national model. This program:

- Conducts research and demonstration on special recreation service delivery, i.e., identification of handicapped, population served, assessment of participants, program, activities, program evaluation, administration, personnel, training, funding, fiscal management, inter-agency coordination, public information and consumerism.

- Conducts research and demonstration on special recreation facility design and operation, i.e. barrier free design, barrier free conversion, costs, management, etc.

- Conducts research and demonstration on benefits to handicapped derived from special recreation, i.e., benefits related to particular conditions, specific recreation activities, groupings, leader/teacher methods, etc.

- Conducts research and demonstration on special recreation training curriculum.

C. White Oak Village/Mountwood Park Special Recreation Training Center

It is planned that, as a special recreation training center, White Oak Village/ Mountwood Park will serve in a national capacity. Specifically, this Center:

- Provides training on the organization and administration of special recreation facilities and services for handicapped consumers, special recreation advocates, and for the following types of trainees: special recreation service providers, facility managers, professional personnel in rehabilitation, special educators, social workers, health personnel, etc.

- Provides training in both general recreation and leisure and special recreation service occupations, i.e., public recreation and park service, private agency recreation service, commercial recreation service, tourism and hospitality service, etc.

V. POPULATION SERVED

Research and planning has been undertaken to deal with the important question of "who will be served?" Based on the research conducted by Nesbitt[1] under a grant from the United States Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, we are basing our five-year planning on a projection of participation, by age group, and disability group as depicted below. The data that Nesbitt reported was based on a nationally representative sampling of some 60 local special recreation programs.

Aged with Impairments	6%
Blind and Visually Handicapped	6%
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	7%
Drug Problems	3%
Learning Disabilities	4%
Mentally Restored	9%
Mentally Retarded	36%
Physically Handicapped	24%
Speech and Communication Impairments	5%
	100%

[1]Nesbitt, John A.
New Concepts and New Processes in Special Recreation, pp. 93-97, In Institute Report #1 of the National Institute on Special Recreation, A Project Funded by the U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped; Iowa City, University of Iowa, 1978. 1,903 pp.

0-2 Infant	0%
2-4 Pre-school	1%
6-12 Elementary Age	12%
13-15 Junior High	12%
16-19 High School	13%
20-30 Young Adult	13%
31-45 Adult	19%
46-61 Mature Adult	17%
62 and over Retirement	13%
	100%

While our planning for program activities, facilities and personnel can proceed based on the detailed data that we have at hand on participation patterns broken down by age-group and disability-group, there are many important questions that must be confronted and we believe that the answers that we obtain to these questions will be helpful to other localities and to other states as they undertake planning, program development and facility construction. It is evident, for example, that demand by those individuals whose function is higher than others could fully utilize the planned facilities and services that we offer. The critical question is, "how can we establish criteria and outreach processes to identify and involve those most in need of Mountwood Experience and those who can most benefit from the Mountwood Experience?" We will be seeking answers to these and many other critical questions as the White Oak Village/Mountwood Park program develops.

VI. PROGRAM

There are many factors that must be considered in planning a recreation program for people who will have a wide range of skills, interests, and abilities.

The approach used will be that of creative adaptation and modification of activities to make participation possible. People who are handicapped have often been denied opportunities for educational, vocational, economic, and social fulfillment. When they come to Mountwood Park and realize recreational fulfillment, we will have succeeded.

If a person is exposed to and becomes interested in an activity that he or she has never performed before, then we have achieved one goal. If we assist that individual in developing basic skills in that activity, then we have achieved a second goal. Then, if upon return to his or her home community, that individual pursues that activity in the community, hopefully on an integrated basis, then a third goal will have been achieved.

While we believe that the White Oak Village/Mountwood Experience of having fun, of doing, of participating is valuable unto itself in raising self esteem, we hope that the overall White Oak Village/Mountwood Experience achieves the following in relation to functioning in one's home community.

- Consciousness raising in recreation;
- Acquisition of recreation skills to be used upon return to home community;
- Acquisition of recreation consumerism skills to be used upon return to the home community;
- A continuing supportive relationship with White Oak Village/Mountwood Park (through friendships, newsletters, etc.)

- Provision of Recreation Counseling (on an individual and small group basis) toward the goal of enhanced recreational functioning;

- Verification of personal growth and development, value and attitude changes, skill acquisition on the part of the participant, and enhanced functioning in the community.

The proposed program of activities to be provided by White Oak Village/ Mountwood Park consists of those from throughout the park which will be made accessible as well as special activities provided by White Oak Village personnel at the Center. A tentative list of planned activities follows:

ARTS

Art Appreciation
Art Shows
Drawing
Museum Participation
Painting
Sculptoring
Water Color

CRAFTS

Cake Decorating
Candlemaking
Ceramics
Clothes Design & making
Costume Design & making
Crewel
Dyeing
Floral Crafts
Jewelry Making
Leather Crafts
Macrame
Nature Crafts
Needlepoint
Origami
Quilting
Rug Braiding
Rug Hooking
Sewing
Soap Carving
Weaving
Wicker Work
Wire Sculpture
Wood Crafts

CULTURAL

Cooking
Dance
Films-Viewing
Guest Speakers
Holiday Celebrations
Music
Plays
Slide Presentations

DANCE

Folk
Modern
Social
Square & Round

DRAMA

Children's Theater
Community Theater
Creative Dramatics
Pantomime
Poetry Reading
Puppetry
Stage Craft
Talent Shows

HOBBIES

Collecting
Models
Plants
Scrapbooks

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Appliance Repair
Budget/Monetary Skills
Communication Skills
Cooking Skills
Grooming/Hygiene
Health and Hygiene
Shopping Skills
Time Skills
Travel Skills
Water Safety

ENTERTAINMENT

Films
Puppet Shows
Radio
TV
Theater

FITNESS

Bicycling
Exercise Programs
Gymnastics
Jogging
Mobility Training
Physical Games
Swimming (Indoor/Outdoor)
Weightlifting

INDOOR GAMES

Board Games
Card Games
Puzzles
Table Tennis
Water Games

MENTAL/LITERARY

Correspondence
Creative Writing
Discussion Groups
Reading

MUSIC

Choral Group
Instrumental Groups
Listening to Records
Music Appreciation
Singing
Song Writing
Talent Shows

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Birdwatching
Boating
Campfire Ceremonies
Camping and Campcrafts
Fishing
Hiking/Backpacking
Horseback Riding
Horticulture
Kite Flying
Nature Interpretation
Outdoor Cooking
Overnight Campouts
Playground Activities
Scouting (BSA, GSA)

OUTDOOR SPORTS

Badminton
Baseball
Basketball
Croquet
Football
Golf
Horseshoes
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball

SPECIAL EVENTS

Beach Party
Hayrides
Holiday Ceremonies

A primary feature in the on-going development of the program was the creation of a Special Recreation Program Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of representatives of groups which have experience in dealing with the problems of the handicapped, including handicapped youths and adults, parents/ relatives of handicapped individuals, advocates for handicapped, voluntary health agency representatives and professional rehabilitation representatives.

What makes White Oak Village so special? So different? One of the basic special features is its barrier free design. You will notice that there are no steps and the entire 26,000 square feet of floor-space is all on one level. The halls and door-ways are extra wide; the telephones, water fountains, sinks, showers and so on are positioned for the easy use of people who use wheelchairs. The cabins will have these same special features throughout.

We hope this short narrative has been helpful to you in getting a better understanding of how we at White Oak Village/Mountwood Park have been able to come this far. The future, we are sure, will be very exciting for us and we are confident that we will be able to meet the challenge of providing recreational opportunities to people who are handicapped in a caring and fun-filled environment.

Invocation

The Rev. Samuel J. Marshall
First United Presbyterian Church

White Oak Village

O Lord, we assemble to invoke Thy Spirit and presence upon this place as we prepare to hallow and dedicate it. In this setting, O Lord, we see, hear, smell, and touch your handiwork, reminding us of your goodness, greatness, bounty and providence.

We are indeed grateful, O Lord, that in this nation, the handicapped need not be disabled or second-class citizens but citizens period--who too share in the American dream of liberty, justice, equality, and now RECREATION for all.

It's for that reason we thank you that those dedicated servants of our federal, state, county and local governments have prayed, planned, and uniquely worked together to bring to birth this symbolic center of recreation...that those who have been disenfranchised physically, mentally, and emotionally no longer need be.

May the name White Oak Village serve as a reminder that as white is a symbol of purity, oak a symbol of strength, and village a symbol of neighborhood, each of us needs to be pure, strong, and loving if the dream of this Center is to be fulfilled.

Therefore our Lord and our God, we ask that Thou wilt set aside this place -- dedicating, consecrating and hallowing it with Thy Spirit and presence, and, at the same time, dedicating, consecrating and hallowing each of us that we, one society may be, according to the divine plan for Thy Family.

We pray this in Thy Holy Name, O Lord. AMEN.

Welcoming Remarks

Making the Dream of Recreation for Handicapped A Reality

John D. Rockefeller, IV
Governor of West Virginia

A Governor has a lot of ceremonial duties to perform, as I'm sure you know.

One of them is to welcome people to conferences held in our State. That's a routine part of the job.

But today is not a routine event.

In fact, it's historic for me, on behalf of the people of Wood County and the citizens of West Virginia --- to welcome all of you to this outstanding facility for the handicapped.

Because White Oak Village tells us something.

It proves that a conscientious government can meet the needs of the handicapped.

It proves that a conscientious, compassionate people can take the germ of a good idea, and --- with everyone pitching in to help --- make that dream a reality.

The leaders of our handicapped programs...the people of Wood County...the Parks and Recreation Commission...Ed Lehew...Marvin Leach... the Members of our Congressional Delegation --- all have joined in an unprecedented effort to make possible this unprecedented facility for the handicapped.

It is such an outstanding facility that one is tempted to resort to adjectives of all types in describing it.

But as beautiful and comprehensive as this facility is, the more important thing behind the bricks and mortar is the idea and the commitment.

One of the things all West Virginians are proud of is that we have a long and impressive record in meeting the day-to-day needs of the handicapped over the years, our programs have led the way for many other states. And that is possible, I believe, because of the inherent nature of we West Virginians, who tend to look upon ourselves as one big family --- a family worth holding together.

And as with any family, we spend our time building a future for our children in a state where, amidst the beauty of these mountains and valleys we call home, we are free to grow and work and laugh and love and enjoy the experience of being alive.

That's what White Oak Village is all about.

And on behalf of the people of West Virginia, I welcome you to this National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped.

I wish for you a successful conference.

And our prayer for you is that you, too, will come to appreciate the good that can be accomplished when all of us look on ourselves as the family of man...

--- A family worth holding together.

Equity in Recreation for the Handicapped

Harold Russell
Chairman
U.S.President's Committee on
Employment of the Handicapped

It is a pleasure to celebrate the opening of White Oak Village.

As Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, I have dedicated much of my life's work to fostering employment opportunities for disabled people. Here, in employment, the needs of disabled people are obvious and immediate. Without a job living becomes a daily struggle to survive. And, in the past, job opportunities were so few that those of us in service to disabled people were forced to concentrate our energies primarily in this area.

But, to tell you the truth, I and my associates were never satisfied that employment was the final answer -- nor, the only answer. What we really were, and still are, striving for is a normal life pattern for disabled people. And, it does not end with employment -- that's where it beings.

So, when I participate at such an occasion as this, I'm encouraged to realize how far we have come, as a society, in our treatment and understanding of handicapped people.

My presentation will cover three things. First, I would like to describe our agency's philosophy regarding recreation participation of the handicapped. We have been active in the area of recreation for some twenty years sponsoring projects such as the handicapped artists competition. And, in 1971 we took formal action to establish a (Sub) Committee on Recreation and Leisure which has been responsible for sponsoring national conferences, publishing program materials and providing national leadership in the formation of policies which enhance recreation opportunity for handicapped and employment of handicapped in recreation.

This (Sub) Committee on Recreation and Leisure of the U.S. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has been chaired by Mr. John A. Nesbitt and has been actively supported by the National Recreation and Park Association, the National Therapeutic Recreation Society, the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the American Association for Leisure and Recreation. It has been supported by voluntary health agencies such as National Easter Seal and American Foundation for the Blind and by Federal agencies such as U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, the U.S. Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and others. I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Nesbitt and all those who have participated, as this Committee on Recreation and Leisure has been one of our most active committees since its formation.

Next, I want to review what is going-on at the Federal Government level in this area.

And, lastly, I would like to tell you about the effect that increased recreation participation is having on our disabled population and society, in general.

As I mentioned earlier, we at the President's Committee, have always been concerned with the total life style of the disabled American. But, a long time ago we realized that an equal chance at employment for the disabled is a shallow opportunity without also guaranteeing them equal access to education, training and social opportunities. Education, training and social experiences contribute to the employability and the growth and development of the handicapped individual.

Recreation researchers have demonstrated repeatedly the fact that recreation participation contributes directly to the emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of the individual. They have helped us broaden our understanding of what is required before the goal of equal employment opportunities is attainable.

I want to point out the immense significance that recreation participation holds for those severely disabled people who may never be able to work. As you know, there are handicapped people who cannot work. These people, maybe more than any other group, need recreation programs. And, those of us working primarily in the area of employment must support their needs. Consequently, whenever we are discussing recreation programming for the handicapped, we must also develop policies and programs that deliver these much needed services to those severely handicapped people who have nothing but leisure. This segment of the disabled community must also be served.

I want to review, briefly, some of the Federal level activities that affect this subject. They break down into two areas -- legislation and policy.

Obviously, any discussion about recent legislative developments in recreation begins with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We all know that it is very nearly a "Civil Rights Act" for handicapped people. And, we know that we have great Americans like Senator Jennings Randolph to thank for this tremendous legislative break-through.

Section 504 regulations are now being written by all Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance, except, of course, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Section 504 requires nondiscrimination of the handicapped in all federally assisted programs. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare published the "model" regulations last year.

Our Subcommittee on Recreation and Leisure has been watching closely the development of Section 504 regulations by those Federal agencies with recreation related interests. And, initial drafts are very encouraging. In fact, I think it is safe to say that what has happened to education as a result of Section 504 implementation by HEW will also happen to recreational programs supported by the Federal Government. This is our initial impression, at least.

This is not to say that each and every one of us here today should not monitor closely the development of those regulations. On the contrary, I urge everyone concerned with disabled people to follow the development of these regulations and comment on them as strong advocates for the rights of the disabled. We

have a chance with these regulations to advance the cause of disabled people by twenty years -- if we can get them to closely parallel those of the Department of HEW. So, I would suggest that the monitoring of the Section 504 regulations become your number one priority. We cannot let this tremendous opportunity pass without complete and dedicated involvement.

Groups like the American Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities as well as our (Sub)Committee on Recreation and Leisure can help you become involved in this process.

The other legislative advance regarding recreation and handicapped people, is "The Education for All the Handicapped Children Act" -- Public Law 94-142. As you know, this law mandates a free and appropriate education for all disabled learners. It also recognizes the recreation needs of disabled children. Here, in Public Law 94-142, is another chance for us to advance the recreational opportunity of the disabled. This law gives stature and clarifies the importance of recreational programming during the school years. We, as advocates for disabled people, have still another chance to exercise our influence, on behalf of handicapped individuals, by encouraging local school district and local recreation and park departments to fully implement the mandate of this law. The opportunity to begin the recreational development of the handicapped individual at such an early age and in such a widespread manner demands the support and efforts of us all.

Both of these laws, Section 504 and "The Education for All the Handicapped Children Act," represent tremendous advances. Yet, both of these milestones need further support -- support at the state and local levels to carry out the intentions of Congress at the point of direct service delivery. Without our continuous involvement these laws could suffer from apathy and not reach their full potential -- which recognizes and supports recreational opportunities for the disabled.

There's one other Federal level development that I wish to call to your attention. It's the development of a "Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan" by the Department of Interior. The purpose of this "plan" is to coordinate public and private resources in the field of recreation. The Lead agency in Interior is the Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service which is headed by Mr. Chris Delaporte.

I am very pleased to be able to report that the Department of Interior, specifically, their Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service, has been extremely supportive of the needs of disabled people in the consideration of this "plan." While the final document has not been published the preliminary efforts have all indicated strong interest and concern with the barriers facing disabled people in recreation. We, and I trust you too, look forward to the final document and how it supports the needs of the handicapped.

Here again, the watchful eye of disabled people and their advocates may make the difference. So, please join us in watching this development as well.

The last thing that I would like to do is discuss, briefly, the impact and effect that increased recreation participation has had on disabled people.

The history of recreation and the handicapped goes back several years. Early efforts beyond the hospital setting were begun by people like my good friends, Mr. Ben Lipton and Mr. Tim Nugent. Mr. Lipton, who directs the Bulova School of Watchmaking -- a longtime employer of the handicapped -- knew the supporting values that sports and recreation performs in employment. His early efforts have grown into the Wheelchair Athletic Association -- the sponsors of the Wheelchair Regional, National and World Games. In these competitions wheelchair athletes hurl the javelin, race long and short distances, lift weights and participate in practically all the events that the olympics sanctions. The value of these games has gone way beyond the immediate returns to the competitors. The general public learns, through the media, about a wheelchair athlete who can lift over 500 pounds! Or, can "run," in his wheelchair, a mile under five minutes! Obviously, this kind of press does much to enhance the public's understanding about the abilities of the disabled.

Professor Tim Nugent of the University of Illinois guided his school into a program -- probably the first in the nation -- that recruited disabled students. With these students Professor Nugent likewise recognized the importance of recreation and sports. His efforts grew into the Wheelchair Basketball Association. This league presently has over a hundred wheelchair teams across the nation. For a long time these were among the few efforts recognized nationally in sports for the handicapped. Then, the Kennedy Foundation began its Special Olympics program. Now over a million mentally retarded athletes compete throughout the world in olympic style games each year.

These three programs have received great national fame. But, of course, we in rehabilitation, in employment of handicapped and in special recreation are aware of the 400 recreation and park departments across the country that have provided special recreation programs for handicapped over the last 20 years. We are aware of the literally hundreds of thousands of handicapped children and youth who have participated in the summer camp programs sponsored by the state and local Easter Seal Societies. And, we are aware of the increasing numbers of museums and nature centers across the nation that are opening their doors to people who are handicapped.

Today, the list grows longer and longer. So long in fact that were anyone to attempt to compile it, including myself, I would surely forget to name them all. But, today,

We have blind people mountain climbing, playing baseball;

We have wheelchair people taking part in "outward bound" programs, "running" in the Boston Marathon;

We have handicapped professional athletes, artists, recreation directors and recreation educators.

Disabled people have reached the point where some of them have done just about everything recreation and sports can offer them.

Now is the time to capitalize on these pioneering efforts and begin to establish permanent advances for all handicapped. White Oak Village and the First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped represent a permanent advance. They represent a beginning of a new era in our recreation for handicapped history. This conference is the beginning of the true integration, mainstreaming and normalization of people who are handicapped into the recreational life of America. Let's all help this process along. The immediate beneficiary are people who are disabled. But, the ultimate winner is our society.

Quality of Life: Recreation and Handicapped People

Robert R. Humphreys
Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health,
Education and Welfare

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to share with you my thoughts on recreation and the special role it has in the rehabilitation process, and to rejoice with you in the dedication of White Oak Village.

I would like to congratulate the people who have made this conference possible. I trust that it is to be the first of many conferences on special recreation for handicapped people.

Rehabilitation is a dynamic process. Through it we hope to reestablish the disabled person's capacity to sense and participate in his or her environment and communicate with others; to adapt to the physical world; and to fully utilize intellectual, social and vocational potentialities.

Rehabilitation is society's unique process of restoring the dignity of its disabled members and of harvesting the products of their talents.

If handicapped people are to enjoy full citizenship and optimum quality of life, rehabilitation service delivery systems must provide expanded opportunities in all aspects of living.

Finally, along with nationwide awareness of the importance of comprehensive services to all disabled people, attention is being directed to the role of therapeutic recreation and leisure services.

White Oak Village and Mountwood respond admirably to this important dimension of comprehensive services.

Who in this country would deny that an outdoor environment such as that provided at Mountwood will provide that extra element -- long denied to disabled people -- which every American thrives on?

The work ethic stresses the importance of employment, a job, a career. This concept is clearly a part of our culture but there are other ethics -- one is the ethic of recreation and sports. When we aren't working, we are involved in the home, engaging in intellectual pursuits, physical activity, or interacting with the environment; and what an environment is offered here at Mountwood!

When we aren't at work, we may be participating in recreation and sports or avidly cheering on the home team, whether it's professional football or little league.

Further evidence of the growing recognition that satisfying and meaningful leisure time recreational and social experiences are vital to all habilitative and rehabilitative programs and services for disabled people is shown in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act, and the Education For All Handicapped Childrens Act.

In addition, the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals produced a series of awareness papers, including one devoted entirely to the subject of recreation. In that paper, produced by Dr. Fred Fay, it states that "...recreational programs can alleviate some of the deprivation leading to passivity, dependence which is all out of proportion to the degree of the disability, and isolation...."

Social attitudes on the part of the general public with respect to disability and handicapped people often result in the exclusion of disabled persons from participation in community, cultural and especially recreational activities essential to the full enjoyment of the fruits of society.

Even for those adults whose handicaps preclude their being trained for employment or being included in even an activity center, recreation can provide occasions for meeting basic human needs that most people find in their work.

Trained specialists are vital to the successful achievement of therapeutic goals and the implementation of habilitation and rehabilitation programs.

In therapeutic recreation, the supply of well-trained specialists and new kinds of para-professionals such as those found in programs in Norway and England is critically inadequate here in the United States.

The most recent national figures available on manpower needs in therapeutic recreation are those resulting from a manpower supply/demand study conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association a decade ago. At that time, a deficit of 2,337 therapeutic recreation personnel was projected by 1980.

During 1977 to 1978, in Los Angeles County recreation services were provided to 21,600 handicapped persons; but of 627 persons employed in recreation positions only 5 held a master's degree in therapeutic recreation.

The rest of the country is in even worse shape from the standpoint of training opportunities for recreation; and, of course, a major inadequacy is the lack of special centers in natural settings, such as is to be provided here at Mountwood.

Under the rehabilitation training grant program, RSA supports a small but important group of projects for the training of professionals in therapeutic recreation. Graduates of the RSA-supported training programs are expected to have a special understanding of the State/Federal rehabilitation program, as well as the contribution the field of therapeutic recreation makes toward achievement of vocational rehabilitation objectives for severely physically and mentally disabled individuals.

The rehabilitation program, which in the past has been geared to employment, has been hesitant to provide services to anyone without vocational potential. However, under new legislative initiatives, the program may be able to provide services to the severely disabled for whom there is no present vocational potential but who can be assisted to live more independently in the family and community. As independent living rehabilitation becomes an integral

part of the Rehabilitation Act, we can expect that an increased share of training grant resources may be directed to the field of therapeutic recreation. You may know that the U.S. Senate under the dynamic leadership of your own Senator Jennings Randolph recently passes S.2600, The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, by an overwhelming margin.

That recreation provides a major contribution to the development of the whole person is obvious. Attention span, interest and motivation levels, self-help skills, and perceptual abilities are all examples of prevocational skills indentifiable and enhanced through horseback riding, aquatic sports, skiing, gymnastics, nature walks, bird watching and general outdoor social interaction.

Being comfortable with the environment and dealing with social encounters is a major factor in successful employment of severely handicapped adults. Special recreation activities can contribute substantially to that success.

At White Oak Village and Mountwood Park people who are handicapped will have a wealth of mountains, fresh air, sunshine, and possibilities for social interaction. These natural elements will be utilized to improve the self confidence and the self image of individuals with disabilities, and then will reinforce the more traditional rehabilitation services, which are not always completely fulfilling for the rehabilitant.

We have become aware of the critical value to the severely disabled -- as with any other person -- of participatory recreation, whether that individual is up on skis, paddling a canoe, participating in a volleyball game or racing toward the finish line in a wheelchair marathon.

The enthusiasm engendered as a member of a team is undeniable evidence of recreation participation.

We still, however, have much to learn. If a triple amputee can ride a horse on a precipitous trail in the mountains of Norway, then we ought to be able to come to grips with all sorts of recreational learning experiences and provide them to people of all ages, of all levels of disability, and of all types of disability.

Fortunately, we are beginning to build the capacity to seize this opportunity through such environmental settings as Mountwood where functional activities, professional and para-professional training, seminars, and workshops for the neglected rehabilitation dimension of recreation and sports for handicapped people.

We have already recognized the scientific progress in psychology and exceptional education as a basis for the use of health sports for the improvement of health, of capacity for work and of mental well being.

The educational concept of "normal risk" is an integral part of the health sports program. We need to allow disabled persons to experience the "normal risks" of everyday life in order to afford maximum functional growth as individuals, and to enhance a positive self concept.

Because this important dimension of the comprehensive approach to habilitation and rehabilitation is an important part of our new legislative initiatives, White Oak Village can provide us with a model of service and training.

Here, both indoor and outdoor recreation and sports can be used to their fullest advantage. With your splendid outdoor resources you can afford handicapped people innumerable stimulating and revitalizing experiences. As you know, important behavioral objectives are achieved during such training. A follow-up program might be considered to involve the same individuals in recreation clubs, sports clubs, riding clubs and other activities of further functional involvement in the community after the initial programs here at Mountwood.

Commitment to the recreational dimension is something the Rehabilitation Services Administration through its various support programs means to continue and improve.

We are convinced that the acquisition of a new life style -- almost a self-renewal within the disabled person's perspective -- can undeniably be obtained through environmental experiences.

This positive way -- this most culturally positive way in all of our instant lifestyles as we have grown up -- has hitherto been denied the disabled person.

The person with a disability must satisfy the need for contact with nature and outdoor life, extended physical training, sensible nutrition and social involvement.

RSA is committed to helping disabled youths and adults to gain this important understanding of and entry to first-class citizenship.

I rejoice in the birth of the Mountwood Experience and White Oak Village, and you can be sure that we will look to you as recreation becomes more and more a major component of the rehabilitation process.

Milestones in Recreation for the Handicapped

Hope T. Moore
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior

I am very pleased to participate in this First National Conference on Special Recreation for the Handicapped. Providing greater recreation opportunities for all Americans is of paramount concern to each of us.

I am especially glad to bring greetings from Dr. Andy Adams, the former U.S. Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services who initially approved funding for Mountwood Park and who is now Special Assistant to Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus.

Someone recently characterized America as a society still coming to grips with the 'gift of leisure' and the affluence that our socio-economic way of life has produced. For this reason, many people -- laymen as well as professionals -- have been having difficulty in dealing with the idea of leisure, leisure participation, and in particular - leisure services for the handicapped. Also, there are still people in every community who feel that recreation for the handicapped is not a pressing concern or take the position that people who are handicapped are the responsibility of the rehabilitation, health or social agencies. Fortunately, this is changing dramatically. White Oak Village, which we are about to dedicate, is a living demonstration of what can be done to meet the recreation needs of the handicapped and the non-handicapped in an integrated setting.

We hope that more funds will be made available under section 304 (b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to other jurisdictions in strategic parts of the country for others in emulate.

We are pleased to have provided a total of $621,800 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the development of a variety of outdoor recreation facilities in Mountwood Park.

One of the greatest tasks facing the Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) is to provide adequate opportunities for people with special needs, particularly the handicapped and the aged, in federal recreation, heritage, and conservation programs.

As many of you may know, HCRS is a new agency that incorporates most functions of the former Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and a range of programs, formerly in the National Park Service, for the preservation of significant historic properties and natural areas.

The purpose is simple - to provide a long-needed single focal point in the Federal Government for the clearly related historic preservation, natural conservation, and recreational interests of Americans.

---

* Commissioner Moore received a National Handicapped Awareness Citation in 1976 in recognition of an affirmative program to create a barrier free environment which enables individuals with handicaps to exercise their rights and independence in our community. This was presented by Easter Seals.

While our heritage resources are not put invariably to purely recreational uses, our nationwide experience in environmental protection has taught us that there is a close linkage between -- and a frequent need to reconcile -- conservation and recreation objectives.

We are excited by the new opportunities before us as a result of this organizational restructuring. We are now able to direct concerted attention to the needs of disabled people in terms of the accessibility to and usability of a broader range of facilities than those related purely to recreation in the classic sense. The Historic Preservation Fund provides grant assistance, through the state historic preservation officers, to a wide range of projects in communities across the country. These are not only museum-related projects. They are projects that result in the reuse of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings -- buildings in which we work and live.

HCRS Director Chris Delaporte stated recently that the Historic Preservation Fund will be administered with the same diligence as the Land and Water Conservation Fund -- the source of money for the recreational program of HCRS -- when it comes to meeting the needs of the handicapped and other special people. He will not accept a token effort.

We are going to see to it that the needs and rights of the disabled are met in every aspect of the HCRS programs.

The laws are there. On May 28, 1963, Congress enacted Public Law 88-29 -- sometimes referred to as HCRS's Organic Act. This act set forth a new national policy that all Americans should be assured adequate outdoor recreation resources. There was no question of semantics when Congress worded it to include all Americans.

In 1968 Congress passed the Architectural Barriers Act (Public Law 90-48) which requires that all buildings and facilities constructed in whole or in part with federal funds must be made accessible to and usable by the physically handicapped. There are now similar laws in each of the 50 states.

We have intensified our efforts to enforce compliance with that law. We require that all buildings and facilities constructed in whole or in part with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and The Historic Preservation Fund be made accessible to and usable by the disabled.

To facilitate compliance with this law, we have emphasized to our state grantees the importance of the final proposal of the American National Standards Institute specifications for making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by physically handicapped people.

A milestone in the history of legislation for handicapped people was achieved with passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112). Section 502 of that act established the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB).

In 1974 the act was amended by Public Law 93-516 to further strengthen the board and provide an order of compliance, which was to be final and binding, including possible withholding or suspension of federal funds. The statutory members of the board are the heads of nine federal agencies, including The Department of the Interior.

It is interesting to note that on March 14, 1978, the ATBCB approved a staff recommendation to conduct compliance reviews of a systematic, directed nature. This is the first time such action has been taken by the board. It follows similar decisions by the Office for Civil Rights and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance programs.

Subject to the reviews will be many buildings or facilities owned by the United States, leased buildings or facilities, and buildings and facilities that have been altered using federal funds since enactment of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, upon which ATBCB's authority rests.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 also included Section 504, often compared with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352), and at times referred to as the Handicapped Bill of Rights.

It behooves all of us to recall that short, simple but extremely far-reaching section of the law, and I quote --

> "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

As you may recall there was jubilation in the disabled community when Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Califano signed the 504 regulations, which signal the beginning of full access for disabled people in the mainstream of American society. That in itself is a momentous happening. The Department of the Interior has completed a draft of its own regulations for implementation of Section 504. These have been mailed to the SLOs and SHPOs for review and comment.

To be candid with you, there is apprehension in the park and recreation and historic preservation communities about the cost of implementing Section 504. This apprehension is compounded by attitudinal barriers which must be broken down if we are to succeed in implementing the law. Under Section 504, recipients of federal funds are required to operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by handicapped people.

However, Section 504 does not require that every existing facility or every part of an existing facility be accessible to and usable by handicapped people. Recipients of federal funds may comply with the law's requirements in many ways, such as redesigning equipment, delivering services at alternate accessible sites, altering existing facilities, or constructing new accessible and usable facilities.

We will have our share of problems, particularly when applying Section 504 to historic and natural areas. But we are determined to assure program accessibility while meeting the requirements of other laws that protect and preserve natural heritage areas, and buildings and sites of archeological, historical and architectural value. It is important to keep in mind that normal modifications of the natural or historic environment by man for the benefit of the public can damage the ecosystem or historic setting to some degree. The question of adverse impact must, therefore, be addressed on a case-by-case basis, with full sensitivity to the needs of the handicapped.

Many of you know that we are now revising the 1973 Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan. Our Organic Act (Public Law 88-29), which I mentioned before, directs the Secretary of the Interior to formulate and maintain a comprehensive nationwide outdoor recreation plan, taking into consideration the plans of the various federal agencies, states and their political subdivisions.

The plan would set forth the needs and demands of all Americans for outdoor recreation resources and the current and foreseeable future availability of outdoor recreation resources to meet those needs. The revised plan will include positive actions to generate greater outdoor recreation opportunities for the handicapped and senior citizens, estimated to form about 17 percent of the U.S. population.

The revised nationwide plan will not only deal with architectural, transportation, communications and attitudinal barriers, but also with implementation and compliance. This will involve the task of changing people's attitudes. It is going to take effective communication to educate the general public to win acceptance of, and increase, outdoor recreation opportunities for the handicapped, the aged, and the disadvantaged. It will also require park and recreation providers to broaden the view of their role and responsibility in meeting the needs of society.

As we revise the Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, it is only appropriate that we turn our eyes as well to the historic preservation aspect of the HCRS program. Preservationists rightly are concerned that historic resources be maintained and given new vitality with the least possible damage to the physical attributes that give cultural properties their unique social value. We assure you that we will examine, with unprecedented thoroughness (and self-criticism, if need be) the responsiveness of the preservation movement to the needs of the handicapped and the aged.

We have learned that the implementation plan of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals was signed by Secretary Califano and is now being printed for distribution. At the conference, Director Delaporte committed himself to be open, responsive and sensitive to the needs and desires of the handicapped. We, therefore, look forward to implementing whatever is required from us in that plan.

We are determined that the Heritage,Conservation and Recreation Service will have a model federal program with respect to planning and providing for the special needs of millions of handicapped and older Americans.

Finally, I would like to leave you with my personal feeling on the issue we are discussing now.

There is no law or set of regulations that can do more to meet the recreation needs of the handicapped citizens than can administrative leadership plus the special concern of recreation providers at the lower level. White Oak Village -- which we are about to dedicate -- is living proof of what I am talking about.

Appendix

Assurance of Compliance with GSA Regulations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The following agreement is made by the Applicant in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining the transfer of any or all property covered by this application and the Applicant recognizes and agrees that any such transfer will be made by the United States in reliance on said agreement.

The Applicant agrees that (1) the program for or in connection with which any property covered by this application is transferred to the Applicant will be conducted in compliance with, and the Applicant will comply with and require any other person or any legal entity who through contractual or other arrangements with the Applicant is authorized to perform activities or provide services or benefits under said program to comply with, all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the regulations of the General Services Administration (41 CFR 101-6.2) issued under the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (2) this agreement shall be subject in all respects to the provisions of said regulations; (3) the Applicant will promptly take and continue to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate this agreement; (4) the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this agreement; and (5) this agreement shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Applicant.

It is agreed that the instrument effecting the transfer to the Applicant of any property covered by this application will contain provisions satisfactory to the United States incorporating the substance of the foregoing agreement, such provisions to consist of (a) a condition, coupled with a right reserved to the United States to cause the property to revert to the United States in the event of any breach of such condition, and (b) a covenant running with the land.

Recreation and the Handicapped: The Unfinished Challenge

Henry J. Viscardi, Jr.
President
Human Resources Center

Benefits of Recreation for the Handicapped

The vital importance of the use of leisure time in the lives of all of us is winning increased recognition by all persons concerned with the quality of life. How handicapped individuals utilize the leisure time available to them is probably even more vital for them than for the general population. Handicapped individuals too often find themselves barred from the leisure activities which contribute to the quality of life of the average citizen. Even though handicapped individuals may find themselves with more leisure time than the average citizen, the options available to them for the utilization of this time for enhancement of their own lives has been needlessly restricted.

The choice of how a person utilizes his or her leisure time has other implications beyond contributing to the quality of life. Equally important is the potential inherent in the use of leisure for the enhancement of one's career and career opportunities.

Recreational activities constitute one of the choices available to individuals possessed of leisure time. The selection of recreational activities by handicapped persons to fill their leisure hours has a number of potential benefits. Many handicapped individuals are spending a large amount of their lives in institutional settings. Therefore, it is not surprising that these individuals tend to develop an institutional outlook on life. This means an outlook which is extremely passive and non risk taking. Recreational activities of many kinds can compensate for this "institutional view." Recreational activities for the most part involve as a part of their "pleasurableness", the element of risk and chance. Most recreational activities also require individuals to participate in competitive activities in which assertiveness becomes a significant factor. It does not require much imagination to see the extent to which not only the quality of life, but the progress of one's career can be enhanced through learning how to take risks and to become self assertive.

Another benefit for handicapped persons from the recreational use of leisure is that of social integration and acceptance. Recreational activities are, by and large, social activities. The engagement in these activities requires the transaction among individuals which in turn promotes communication. In short, the ability of handicapped individuals to successfully participate in a recreational activity allows them not only to be seen but accepted as a "full fledged human being" by other persons.

One area in which the participation of handicapped individuals in recreational activities has become mandated is in the industrial setting. More and more industries have requested the need to not only support, but in many cases provide recreational activities for those employees. Needless to say, it has not been through altruistic motives that industries have undertaken the support, and in many cases the provision of recreational opportunities and facilities. Job satisfaction, peer cooperation and other factors essential to the productive process have been found to be developed more effectively through recreational activities rather than through job related tasks. With these opportunities and facilities being available for a wider range of employees, it is currently required that under the law these same opportunities and facilities be made available to the physically handicapped worker.

The whole area of recreation will need to be reexamined in light of recent decisions requiring that the physically handicapped be "mainstreamed" into the activities of the public schools. Public schools must now attend to the recreational needs of these "mainstreamed" children.

Major Advances in Recreation for the Handicapped

It is possible, in discussing the major advances in recreation to go back more than 30 years. Some scholars feel that an awareness of the importance of recreation began as early as 1906 with the formation of the Playground Association of America. However, the role of recreation in the rehabilitation of the human person came to be recognized only in the late 1940's. The return of veterans from World War II can be noted as the starting point of a new concern with the use of recreation in the treatment of the disadvantaged. By the late 1950's and early 1960's institutional programs began to reflect this change. More and more institutions during this period began to recognize the therapeutic values of recreation in the rehabilitation of the handicapped and the disadvantaged. Today, we are still seeing a continuation of this effort to utilize recreation to facilitate the attainment of the goals of rehabilitation programs. The diversity of the impact of recreation upon such programs may be seen in the variety of professional training programs in the general recreational area as well as in the growing number of organizations reflecting the specialization of functions within recreation.

The experiences of the past 30 years have brought us to this present moment where most of us are at last aware of the fact that recreational experiences are indeed instrumental in heightening the quality of life for the handicapped. We are equally aware that recreational activities are an important part of the rehabilitation process and can have a direct impact upon the success of programs in the area of vocational rehabilitation.

If a bit of imagination and sensitivity can be applied to the adaption of industrial sponsored recreational programs for the handicapped, and if with equal imagination and sensitivity the public schools can respond to the recreational needs of the handicapped children; then vocational rehabilitation efforts on behalf of these individuals will be greatly enhanced.

We stand here today aware of the fact that recreation can be a powerful force in the social integration of persons, who because of their disabilities must otherwise stand apart from the mainstream of society. Recreational activities can bring together individuals who otherwise would remain unknown to each other. This holds true whether in an institutional or industrial-school setting or in the environment of the community.

White Oak Village, Human Resources Center: Where We Are and Where We Can Go

A look around White Oak Village and at my own Human Resources Center provides convincing evidence that we are at last beginning to move beyond a state of merely being "aware." At White Oak Village we see the opening of recreational areas to handicapped individuals. Also, at White Oak Village is evidence of

the power of imagination in bringing about the adaptation of areas and equipment to bring recreation experiences into the lives of the disadvantaged. It is not only this imagination that is required to change awareness into reality, but with this recreational reality available to the handicapped they too are bound to have their imagination stimulated to not only enrich their own lives, but to further contribute to bringing themselves and other handicapped persons into the mainstream of American life.

The results of imagination here at White Oak Village are before us, but let me take a few moments of your time to add to the experience by showing you what imagination has produced in the way of recreational facilities at the Human Resources Center.

Human Resources Center maintains a swimming pool that exhibits a broad spectrum of adaptations. The perimeter of the pool is raised 19 inches up from floor level so that those in wheelchairs can easily transfer. A ramp with a 15 percent grade is provided at the shallow end for those who have difficulties using the available grab bars. The pool is also equipped with two conventional ladders and wide steps for easy entry. The Center also contains a gymnasium comparable in size to those found in most public schools. The gymnasium is equipped for wheelchair basketball, wheelchair hockey, and a full range of adapted sports activities. Outdoor recreational facilities include a miniature golf course and a field for modified baseball games.

You here will be interested in knowing that the Human Resources Center is reaching beyond its own walls to open areas of recreation to the handicapped. Our current research project on recreational boating is designed so that physically handicapped individuals, throughout the country, may more readily participate in this increasingly popular form of recreation. The project has recently produced a strategy paper which surveyed the state of the art in this field and found a great lack of awareness upon the part of all individuals as to the needs and potential for recreational areas. This project currently is developing guidelines which are designed and developed to help overcome the existing obstacles which prevent handicapped individuals from fully participating in this recreational area.

I suppose it would be a dull society if there were nothing to do. However, we can all rest assured that the tasks that remain to be done in the area of recreation for the handicapped are, to say the least, considerable.

The first matter that must be dealt with is to increase the recreational options for handicapped persons.

The second factor is to insure that these "options" are viable. Handicapped individuals must be intimately involved in the development of policy which can create these options as well as in the provision of direct input to those who are in a position to make such policies.

Once viable recreational options are available, then transportation to provide access to these options must also be found. And, again, here input and participation from handicapped persons must be actively sought to eliminate the transportation barriers.

The future, too, must go beyond providing recreational opportunities for the handicapped, but must include career opportunities for the handicapped within the field of recreation itself. Too often we ignore the career potential for handicapped persons in those areas where they can contribute the most.

Finally, in the future we must find the ways and means of stimulating research in the area of recreation for disadvantaged persons. We need much more research in areas of planning and design. We need research in new technology and equipment and programs. We need to continue our exploration of the use of outdoor activities by handicapped individuals. Together with schools and with industry we must apply our collective imagination to design even more effective means of bringing the handicapped individuals into the "mainstream" of American recreation.

It can be said that today we stand both at the end and the beginning of a process. It is the end of a process by which we have become aware of the potential of recreation in the lives of all our citizens and of the handicapped individuals in particular. We stand at the beginning of a period where we are called upon to implement and act upon this newly acquired understanding. It will be dependent upon the imagination and ingenuity of handicapped individuals themselves -- an imagination and ingenuity heightened by their own recreational experiences, which will ultimately determine the success of this future process.

The First National Conference on
Special Recreation for the Handicapped

White Oak Village:

The Turning Point in Special Recreation for Handicapped

John A. Nesbitt, Ed.D.
Professor, and
Director, National Institute on
Special Recreation
University of Iowa

Herbert paper starts here.

Why This Conference was Held

The First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped was conducted as the first formal, national public service of Mountwood Park and its White Oak Village program. By virtue of its unique role as the first of a planned series of Federal special recreation for handicapped demonstration facilities and programs, Mountwood Park's White Oak Village has a local, state and national role in service, research and training in special recreation for handicapped.

The development of the plan for the Mountwood Experience for people who are handicapped took place in three phases. The first phase dealt primarily with the design and construction of Mountwood Park, a 2,600 acre accessible park. The second phase was the design and construction of a special recreation facility, White Oak Village, which provides special recreation opportunity for people who are handicapped and their immediate family and friends.

The third phase was the development of the programs and services to be provided by Mountwood Park and White Oak Village for people who are handicapped.

Through the First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped and nationwide dissemination of the Report of Proceedings, Mountwood Park and White Oak Village have provided handicapped consumers and advocates, rehabilitation professionals and the public-at-large with a means of sharing in the new knowledge and new insights that have been gained by Mountwood Park and White Oak Village in providing access to recreation facilities and recreation programs.

The Dedication of White Oak Village Marked a Turning Point

Only infrequently is it possible to see the course of history changing. But, in fact, the First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped was an event where it was possible to see the course of recreation opportunity for people who are handicapped being reconsidered, reformed and redirected.

The First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped and the dedication of White Oak Village marked a turning point in the history of special recreation. At the National Conference national leaders in rehabilitation and recreation gave witness to the fact that special recreation for handicapped has been neglected in the past but was being recognized in a number of Federal laws and programs. They reported on the direct attention that special recreation for the handicapped was being given and the fact that they were including special recreation for handicapped as a priority of their respective Federal programs in the future.

National Leaders Support Recreation for Handicapped

Never before had leaders of such premier stature in the American rehabilitation movement directly expressed such high support for the importance of recreation participation for people who are handicapped.

National leaders such as the Chairman of the U.S. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Mr. Harold Russell; the Chairman of the White House Conference for Handicapped Individuals, Dr. Henry Viscardi; and the Commissioner of the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration, Mr. Robert R. Humphreys, stated that they had reconsidered the role and function of recreation participation in the lives of disabled people who achieve full employment, or achieve partial employment or are unable to work. They saw recreation performing a vital function in the life of each person. They saw recreation contributing to vocational function and performance, contributing to educational function and performance, contributing to community function and performance and contributing to social function and performance. They saw recreation as a basic dimension of human fulfillment.

The White House Conference for Handicapped Individuals Chairman, Dr. Viscardi said, "The experiences of the past 30 years have brought us to this present moment where most of us are at least aware of the fact that recreation experiences are indeed instrumental in heightening the quality of life for the handicapped. We are equally aware that recreation activities are an important part of the rehabilitation process and can have a direct impact upon the success of programs in the area of vocational rehabilitation....

"It can be said that today we stand both at the end and the beginning of a process. It is the end of a process by which we have become aware of the potential of recreation in the lives of all our citizens and of handicapped individuals in particular. We stand at the beginning of a period where we are called upon to implement and act upon this newly acquired understanding. It will be dependent upon the imagination and ingenuity of handicapped individuals themselves -- an imagination and ingenuity heightened by their own recreational experiences -- which will ultimately determine the success of this future process."

RSA Commissioner Humphreys said, "Commitment to the recreational dimens on is something the Rehabilitation Services Administration through its various programs means to continue and to improve...I rejoice in the birth of White Oak Village and you can be sure that we will look to you as recreation becomes more and more a major component of the rehabilitation process."

U.S. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped Chairman Russell said, "Our (Sub) Committee on Recreation and Leisure has been watching closely the development of 504 Regulations by those Federal agencies with recreation related interests. And, initial drafts are very encouraging. In fact, I think it is safe to say that what has happened to education as a result of Section 504 implementation by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare will also happen to recreational programs supported by the Federal Government. This is our initial impression, at least."

These leaders in rehabilitation were joined by a preeminent leader of Federal recreation and park service in the person of the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Commissioner Hope T. Moore.

Commissioner Moore said, "We are going to see to it that the needs and rights of the disabled are met in every aspect of the U.S. Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service...the revised Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan will include positive actions to generate greater outdoor recreation opportunities to about 17 percent of the U.S. population."

Finally, the national leader whose contribution was the key to reshaping the special recreation for handicapped concept was the Director of Mountwood Park, Mr. Edward R. Lehew. Mr. Lehew set forth the new mission of special recreation for handicapped service, that mission being to make it possible for people who are handicapped to participate in recreation the same as any other citizen and to achieve the same satisfactions as any other citizen. Mr. Lehew served as the quintessential model in word and deed of local and national advocacy for special recreation for handicapped.

The Intent of Congress

Never before had the Congress of the United States expressed a clear philosophical and programmatic intention to provide accessibility to America's recreation programs and facilities for people who are handicapped--until White Oak Village.

But, the Congress of the United States demonstrated this commitment by the fact that a $4.2 million facility stood constructed in the form of White Oak Village as part of an accessible 2,600 acre park, Mountwood Park.

The idea of a totally accessible park and a special recreation facility was not a 'pie-in-the-sky' idea but 'bricks and mortar' in the form of Mountwood Park and its White Oak Village. While Mountwood Park was not scheduled for completion until 1983 and White Oak Village was not scheduled for completion until 1980, hundreds of handicapped people had already had access to Mountwood Park. As each new feature of Mountwood Park was finished, handicapped people were automatically included in programs and services, "just the way it should be all across the land."

Advocacy for Recreation for Handicapped

The advocacy for recreation for handicapped that was conducted by the people of Parkersburg, of Wood County and of West Virginia is one of the most important new insights to be shared throughout the nation. The people of Wood County created the initiative for White Oak Village and the legislation that was passed by the Congress of the United States. Two of the greatest advocates for special recreation for handicapped that the nation has ever known, Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Lehew, saw a basic community need, they garnered the help and assistance of their local associates, they explained the problem and proposed a solution to their Congressional delegation and ultimately the dream of White Oak Village became a reality.

The Wood County initiative will result ultimately in a series of demonstration facilities and programs.

There is a need in literally thousands of towns and countries throughout America for local special recreation for handicapped advocates to study this basic human need, to gain the support of their local community, to create a solution and to obtain the support of their city and county. It has been proven in Wood County, West Virginia that it can be done.

Federal Laws and Programs and Recreation for Handicapped

Within the perspective of the last 70 years it was possible at the National Conference to catalogue the following efforts and activities that have taken place within the last five years. Each of these represents changes in legislation, policies and programs.

* A major local initiative in recreation for handicapped has been completed, Mountwood Park and White Oak Village.

* The U.S. Congress has enacted legislation in recreation for handicapped.

* A major Federal agency has administered a new program in recreation for handicapped.

* A $4 million special recreation demonstration facility has been built.

* Other special recreation demonstration facilities and services have been proposed.

* A new concept of special recreation for handicapped has been developed based on personal choice, equality, human potential, normalization, consumerism and advocacy.

* New laws have been passed which will reinforce handicapped people's right to recreation access to all public recreation facilities and services.

* A new law has been passed which provides recreation to handicapped children, kindergarten through 12th grade, as part of special education.

* A new law has been passed which provides recreation to handicapped youth and adults as part of comprehensive rehabilitation services.

* Recreation for handicapped has been accepted as an element in Federal level recreation planning and development.

* Recreation access has been recognized as a basic aspect of architectural and transportation access.

Never before had national leaders in rehabilitation and in recreation convened at a national conference sought to identify and elucidate the Federal laws which provide opportunity for handicapped to participate in recreation.

Paper starts page 30.

The Federal laws and programs discussed by the speakers which bear directly on special recreation for handicapped included the following:

* The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Amendments.

* Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

* Program of the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration.

* The Education for the Handicapped Act of 1975.

* Program of the U.S. Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.

* Program of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

* Public Law 88-29 of 1963 and the Program of the U.S. Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service.

Each of the five national leaders reviewed Federal laws and programs as they now stand in relation to the right to access to recreation for people who are handicapped. The essence of the new direction that they pointed was that recreation for handicapped will no longer be donated as charity, nor prescribed as therapy, nor given as privilege. Henceforth, recreation opportunity for handicapped will be provided as a right and as an essential of human development and maintenance.

White Oak Village - An Extraordinary Innovation

The Mountwood Park and White Oak Village program seems logical. A visitor who stops might say, "Well, why not? It makes sense to include facility, program and service access for all people including the handicapped in a public, tax supported recreation facility or park."

The genius of the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration 'research and demonstration' program is that once an innovation in rehabilitation has been achieved it seems logical. The demonstration seems so reasonable that when a new person comes on the scene it is sometimes difficult to convince him or her that "it has not always been that way." Such is the nature of innovation and social custom.

Thus it is with the Mountwood Park and White Oak Village model program that even as wholly new concepts and methods are tested and presented they quickly become part of the scheme of things. But, the fact is that Mountwood Park and White Oak Village are the product of an extraordinary effort by many volunteers and many dedicated staff.

The following statement by Mr. Bill Flesher, the Mountwood Park Engineer, a person previously unfamiliar with serving handicapped, epitomizes the feelings and commitment of the Mountwood Park and White Oak Village staffs, "These rehabilitation places teach people how to live. Maybe by coming to Mountwood and White Oak Village, people who are handicapped will become more convinced that it is worthwhile to live."

To the Staff of Mountwood Park and White Oak Village I wish to express my highest commendation for an extraordinary achievement in making a reality of White Oak Village and in conducting the First National Conference on Special Recreation for Handicapped. The Mountwood Park and White Oak Village staffs have distinguished themselves as professionals. The performance of the Mountwood and White Oak Village staffs in conducting the most inspiring National Recreation Conference I have ever attended bears full witness to their dedication and competence.

Personally, I feel it was a privilege to have shared with the staff the experience of the Conference and the Dedication. Hundreds, literally thousands of people have not been able to achieve the advocacy breakthroughs that have been achieved by the Mountwood and White Oak Village staffs and volunteers.

In the years to come thousands and tens of thousands of people who would never have visited a park will know the joy of the Mountwood Experience. And, literally millions of people who are handicapped will know the joy of recreation because of the staff's pioneering leadership, courage, perseverance, faith and plain hard work.

Everyone said that it could not be done. But, they did it.

I thank the staff for letting me share the Mountwood Experience.

Commendation of the Speakers and Reactors

Throughout the Conference the participants benefitted from a series of excellent comments and statements made by designated reactors. Everyone who participated in the Conference appreciated these statements.

We thank the speakers for their papers which represent 20, 30 or 40 or more years of personal and professional experience. They have influenced the evolution and growth of rehabilitation and the achievements of the thousands and tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of handicapped who they have reached through their ideas, their research, their writing, their pioneering projects and the programs that they have administered. We thank Mr. Lehew, Mr. Russell, Commissioner Humphreys, Commissioner Moore and Dr. Viscardi for letting us share this experience with them.

We wish to thank West Virginia Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV, for his presence and for the statement that he gave the Conference. Governor Rockefeller said,

"What is being done here is so unique that I wanted to see it first hand.

"The very fact that recreation is made available to handicapped shows that government at various levels can be useful...and I can not think of a better, more valuable, more useful, more compassionate use of taxpayers' money than recreation for handicapped and White Oak Village.

"The White Oak Village Project responds to a people problem and I am extremely proud of this project and program.

"I hope that those of you from other states will go home to your various states inspired to do better in special recreation for handicapped, an area in which this country has been so negligent."

It is gratifying to reflect that many West Virginians believe in Special Recreation for Handicapped. That belief started in Wood County, West Virginia and spread through the state, right into the State Capitol and then to Washington, D.C. where Senator Randolph, Senator Byrd and Representative Mollohan took up this belief and advocated for it with the Congress of the United States.

We may hope that this belief in special recreation for handicapped people will spread all across the United States and bring recreation opportunity and joy to 25 million Americans who though they be disabled need not be handicapped in recreation.

Invocation

The Rev. Francis H. Wade
Memorial Church of the Good
Shepherd, Episcopal

A Dedication Prayer for White Oak Village

O Lord, we know that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men; and that it is not by Your Will that so many people need a place like White Oak Village. We do not know why so many suffer; and we have no excuse for having waited so long to see them and to respond to them. We can only stand in awe of the patient vigil of the handicapped; and can only ask Your forgiveness and theirs that so much patience is needed.

Today we pridefully stand amid the result of dreams and plans and skills and efforts, the work of thousands of hours and millions of dollars; and we give thanks for all whose labor has brought us this far.

We joyfully congratulate and encourage those who will work here and be the hands, the mind and the face of a caring nation.

But even more than for those who enabled White Oak Village, and even more than for those who will administer White Oak Village, we ask Your blessing on those who need White Oak Village.

Use this place, O Lord, to strengthen bodies and enlighten minds; open eyes to forest green and open ears to forest sounds; put laughter into mouths and a new kind of tears into eyes.

Use this place, O Lord, that your children too long bound may know a day of freedom.

Use this place, O Lord, to touch those who need it, or else this place will be nothing.

AMEN.

Opening Remarks

Creating a National Policy of Meeting
the Recreation Needs of Handicapped People

Edward R. Lehew
Executive Director
Mountwood Park

Welcome to the official dedication of White Oak Village.

It is particularly a pleasure for me to take part in this ceremony because I was among the first - four years ago - to begin seeking a means for funding the construction of White Oak Village.

Now - to be able to stand here and see it very nearly ready to operate - is tremendously gratifying.

White Oak Village will mean many things to many people. But, what it means most to me is that it is inspiring evidence of the true effectiveness of our Nation's democratic system.

I would like to tell you how it worked for us in this case.

When we members of the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission began to inquire among the people of our community about their recreational needs in order that we might try to meet those needs thru Mountwood Park, it became clear to us from the start that the people in this area and the people throughout the Great State of West Virginia wanted more than anything else a place that would provide quality recreation and vacation opportunities for their handicapped friends and loved ones.

Handicapped individuals agreed that because of structural barriers and other problems there wasn't anywhere they could go and really enjoy an outdoor recreational experience, especially if they wanted their families to go with them.

Based on this request, we held many meetings and our planners invested considerable effort until we felt we were prepared to explain to our Congressional Delegation what we wanted to do and why we wanted to do it.

Apparently, we did a good job on our "homework" because Congressman Mollohan, Senator Byrd and, especially, Senator Jennings Randolph gave the plan their full and enthusiastic support.

But, what our Congressional Delegation then discovered was that there was no Federal law that authorized the construction or operation of Federal facilities or services for recreation for people who were handicapped. In all the hundreds and thousands of programs and millions and billions of dollars that had been spent through our Federal government there was no law that directly addressed the recreation needs of literally millions of handicapped citizens who would never be able to visit a park, who would never be able to go camping, who would never visit a nature center, who would never be able to vacation with their friends and relatives in a park.

When Congressman Mollohan, Senator Byrd and Senator Randolph became aware of this great oversight in our national policy about and toward handicapped people and the vacuum in Federal laws and Federal programs, they determined to do something about it. Their goal was to create legislative authority to provide nationally for the creation of a series of demonstrations of recreation facilities and services and to initiate the first of this series of demonstrations at Mountwood Park.

An enormous need of handicapped people - the need for recreation opportunity- had been overlooked for years and years. Our community had conceived of a plan for creation of special recreation facilities and special recreation programs, our local leadership was in support of the plan and our handicapped citizens and their families needed the recreation opportunities that had been envisioned.

Final approval was up to the United States Congress because at that time no Federal agency had authorization to assist with funding the construction of facilities such as White Oak Village. So, the Federal law had to be created to allow this to happen, and a Federal agency had to be found to carry out the law.

Due to the leadership of Congressman Mollohan, Senator Byrd and Senator Randolph, Congress did create the law as part of that momentous enactment, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which has become the "Civil Rights Act" of the handicapped.

So, I find it reassuring and highly inspiring that the PEOPLE of Wood County, people like me and "Home Grown" Marvin Leach who you see and work with every day, were able to participate in that great Act-of-Congress.

White Oak Village is a reality today because we all worked together:

The People of Wood County

The Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Wood County Commission

Our Congressional Delegation

By working together through our democratic system, we were part of persuading the United States Congress to enact a law-a law which now makes it possible for facilities like White Oak to be built all across the United States.

So, that's what I think of when I look at this beautiful facility, I think of the great opportunities that are being given by this country to all the people and I think of the power that belongs to the American people.

We know and readily understand and recognize the part that Congressman Mollohan, Senator Byrd and Senator Randolph had in helping us but you probably don't know their very effective and hard working assistants. I had the pleasure of working with these people. They played a very major part in this accomplishment and I wish to acknowledge them: Mr. Merideth Robb, Mrs. Pat Forsythe and Mr. Phil McGance.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge a few of the local people who helped: County Commissioners: Mr. Marvin Leach, Mr. Butch Shaver and Mr. Jim Fittro, President of the Wood County Commission.

Special Guest Speaker

White Oak Village: A Unique, National Monument Dedicated to a Fullness of Life for All

Henry J. Viscardi, Jr.
President
Human Resources Center

Friends - How privileged I am to share this platform on this great day to dedicate White Oak Village. It has been the dream of so many of you who have sought to make this possible. I am especially pleased to be here with my friend, Senator Jennings Randolph, who has told me of this facility long before I ever came to see it. Each of you who is here to share this great day has a special reason to be happy for most of you, officials of the local commissions and government, Congressman Robert Mollohan, architects, engineers, staff personnel has helped to create this unique facility for the handicapped which will become a national monument.

White Oak Village and Mountwood Park are unique in this country and in the world. These facilities will bring fullness of life, enrichment of life for all Americans excluding no one because of disability, or age or infirmity. Just as it is with employment for our disabled Americans, there is no substitute for the happiness and dignity which comes with a full life, with recreation and leisure time activities. It is essential to the American tradition, founded deep in the roots of western civilization. The hinge of fate has made this nation leader in the struggle for the oppressed wherever darkness has fallen and the light of liberty has gone out. It has made this nation leader in bringing to its disabled and overaged citizens the opportunity to enjoy the national beauty of this glorious West Virginia scenery and countryside.

In introducing me to you Ed Lehew has told you that I was born without legs. My parents were poor people. I spent the first six years of my life as a charity patient in a hospital on the west side of New York City. I did not stand on these artificial limbs which I now wear until I was 27 years of age. I know all there is to know about pity, pain, frustration and disillusionment.

I grew up as a crippled child, horribly deformed. I have a personal stake in this issue. When I was a child I remember my mother's explanation for my condition. She told me that when it was time for another crippled child to be born, the Lord and his counselors held a meeting to decide where it should be sent and the Lord said, "I think the Viscardis' would be a good family for a crippled boy."

That's the way I feel about you who have come here to share this great dream, about America this great land which I love and which seeks to bring the richness of life to all of its citizens who have known adversity, excluding no one. Thank God you have had the faith and courage to make this dream come true.

I like to believe, Senator Randolph, that some great persons in history are smiling down on us on this glorious West Virginia day. This historic day in the lives of disabled citizens of this great Republic.

I like to believe that Homer looks down on us. Homer who could have squatted in the dust at the gates of Athens, where the rich would have pitied him and tossed gold into his cap. He like Milton and Prescott, the historian was blind.

I like to believe that Julius Caesar is smiling down on us today. Julius Caesar, first general, statesman and historian of his age and excepting Cicero its greatest orator, a mathematician, philologist, jurist and architect - he was an epileptic.

I like to believe that Beethoven is happily humming down on us today. Beethoven, the ultimate genius of the classical schools of music, beyond whose creations as Wagner said, instrumental music can never go, became deaf before middle age and never heard, except by the inward ear, his own great symphonies.

Thank God for all those persons of energy and imagination who have made this possible. For Senator Jennings Randolph and Representative Mollohan, for Patria Forsythe who directs the Senate Committee on the Handicapped and is a devoted, tireless worker on behalf of the less fortunate citizens of our country. I know how hard she has worked on the legislation which founded this great project. Pat is working on the final legislative details of the passage of the Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act which I know will be included in Senator Randolph's remarks today.

How much all this gives us cause to believe in our great country.

There are many good nations in this world. I have been in most of them. I prefer this land in which we live for various reasons but primarily for this: America has evolved a system whereby almost anyone who is born into one level of existence can move up to a higher level if he or she has the determination to do so. Considering my early life, I am convinced that had I been raised in any country other than this I would not have escaped from the poverty and disability I knew as a child. I would not have received a first rate education, nor a chance to better myself in every detail nor an invitation to become a learned man working in different fields. In any other country I would have been limited to the most menial work.

Now as I look about me here today I see you have added the opportunity to bring richness to a life of productive dignity and I am hopeful because I see the tremendous energy we can focus on a problem even when the prospects look bleakest.

All of you who have worked so hard for this great Park, this White Oak Village must continue to believe in this great cause. All history bears witness that it is the believers who win the revolutions, form the nations, conquer the oceans, tame the wilderness, raise up the great cities and great institutions. The Doubters, the cynics, the unbelievers, they can scarcely shake the pebbles from their shoes, much less move mountains.

I have so much I would wish for you today. More than anything else I would wish for you what you have provided for the disabled who will use this great facility. I will wish for you meaning for all your lives. For all the years that remain let it be a life for you all that has dignity and meaning.

Senator Randolph, you were responsible for the Randolph Shephard Act which has benefitted the blind. Allow me to remind you of a brief passage from the writings of Helen Keller. She asked a friend who had just returned from a long walk in the woods what she had observed, "Nothing in particular," she replied. "How was that possible, I asked myself. I who cannot hear or see find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly about the rough shaggy bark of a pine. Occasionally, if I am very fortunate, I place my hand gently on a small tree and feel the happy quiver of a bird in song."

Because people like Senator Randolph and Patria Forsythe have believed in this great cause this facility will stand on these glorious hills to challenge the belief in permanent helplessness and to push back further the horizons which divide our world into able and disabled persons.

Thank God for this great land, and for all those persons who have helped to make this dream come true.

Dedication of White Oak Village

Special Guest Speaker

White Oak Village....Mountwood Park's Crown Jewel

60

Congressman Robert H. Mollohan

As I look around this audience today, I see many persons who have worked with determination and foresight to bring into being this marvelous recreation complex we call Mountwood Park.

Just five years ago, Mountwood Park was little more than a vision outlined in an ambitious master development plan. We had great goals for what we wanted to achieve, and it is truly worth noting that a large portion of our objectives have been accomplished in such a short period of time.

We know what this Park means to West Central West Virginia. We know what it means to the continued growth and development of Wood County and Greater Parkersburg. We know this is a public investment that will yield a long-term benefit to the people of this area.

Mountwood Park is a glittering gem, but the crown jewel is White Oak Village that is the focus of our attention today.

I remember so well that summer day in 1972 when Ed Lehew and others from Wood County came to Washington to sit down with Senator Byrd, Senator Randolph and myself.

They had an idea....a good idea.... and they had a plan. But it was obvious that the plan needed Federal help. They pointed out that no where in this area is there a facility designed to provide a full range of recreational opportunities for the handicapped.

They proposed building such a complex in Mountwood Park to benefit handicapped individuals from throughout the state. They asked for our suggestions and for our help in making this possible.

Senator Byrd, Senator Randolph and I immediately agreed that the idea was a good one, that the need was real and that this lovely site would be an excellent location to demonstrate how we as a society might be more innovative in providing recreation opportunities for the handicapped.

We promised and gave our full support. As a result, the Federal Government has provided the total construction cost of more than four million dollars. Additional Federal funds will be used to furnish and equip White Oak Village and to train personnel to operate it.

That we have succeeded in a mere three year's time in transforming a good idea into bricks and mortar is almost astonishing. Things usually don't get done that quickly.

But we have had the extraordinary good fortune of having the kind of people involved in this undertaking who have a reputation for getting things done.

We had the vision and ceaseless support of the Wood County Commission and the Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission.

We had the full and enthusiastic support of various persons across the state who work closely with our handicapped citizens.

We have received commendable cooperation from the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Our colleges and universities, including Parkersburg Community College, Salem College, West Virginia University and Marshall University, have stepped forward to help train the personnel who will work here.

Business and civic leaders from across the state have agreed to establish a trust fund that will help operate White Oak Village.

In the halls of Congress, we have benefited tremendously from the support, the encouragement and the determined cooperation of the Senate majority leader... our own Robert C. Byrd.

A key role has also been played by West Virginia Congressman John Slack of the Second District. He has consistently helped secure funding for the White Oak Village in the House Appropriations Committee of which he is an influential member.

All of these persons and many more have contributed to the coordinated effort that has made this project possible.

But there is one person whose dedication, commitment and hard work stand out brilliantly....a person without whom we would have no reason to be here today.

We know him well because he has always worked hard for the people of West Virginia.

We know him for the Appalachian Development Act which has done so much to improve the quality of life in our state.

We know him for his work on the Senate Public Works Committee which has made it possible for us in West Virginia to have better roads, vastly improved water and sewer services and a host of other vital community improvements.

We know him for his long dedication to improving the lives of the handicapped citizens throughout West Virginia and the rest of the nation.

We know him as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped where he made a very small but important change in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that authorized development of White Oak Village.

We know him as a man who gets things done for West Virginia.

We know him as our ally in progress.

We know him as our senior Senator with a distinguished and extensive record of public service.

But above all, we know him as our friend.

It is with great personal pleasure that I give you my close personal friend and your United States Senator, Jennings Randolph.

Keynote Speaker

The Dawn of Equal Access to Recreation

Senator Jennings Randolph

Speech by Senator Jennings Randolph at Mountwood Park Recreation Center
on September 23, 1978

Today is an exciting day for the handicapped citizens of West Virginia, for the individuals who have labored to make this magnificent recreation center a reality, and for me personally. It is gratifying to participate in the dedication of the Mountwood Park Recreation Center for the Handicapped, White Oak Village, and to share this occasion with you.

As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped, I have been committed to initiating and supporting legislation which provides handicapped individuals with the dignity of self-support, the joy of work, and the pleasure of recreation and access to the same opportunities that make a full life. During the past sixteen years, we have seen the growth of a variety of programs to support opportunities for handicapped individuals. During the developing of these programs, we have learned that handicapped children, like other children, need opportunities for healthy, growth-promoting play. Handicapped adults need an opportunity for constructive use of leisure time that may prove a major factor in maintaining community adjustment as well as being personally enjoyable. Mountwood Park Recreation Center for the Handicapped, White Oak Village, will offer a unique opportunity for the handicapped to enjoy recreational opportunities in West Virginia.

This facility is the first of its kind to be built under the authority of Section 304 (b) of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1974. In that year when the recreation needs of handicapped individuals were brought to my attention, it seemed appropriate to address those needs by adding language to the Rehabilitation Amendments of 1974. I look around me now and see the culmination of our efforts to bring that legislative authority into reality. I know that this recreational facility is going to provide not just enjoyment to many handicapped West Virginians but also serve as a model for the creation of many more such centers. It is my hope that someday handicapped citizens of our Nation will have access to beautiful park areas like the Mountwood Park Recreational Center for the Handicapped, White Oak Village.

It is significant that S. 2600, the Rehabilitation Comprehensive Services and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, contains legislative authority for the initiation of community recreation projects. It is the hope of the members of the Subcommittee on the Handicapped that this provision stimulate the development of and utilization of more community-based recreation programs.

A new day dawns for the handicapped citizens of West Virginia on this dedication day - a new day offering equal access to recreational activities. I thank you all for asking me to share it with you.

Directory of Speakers, Reactors and Planners

Bane, Jr. David C.
Director, White Oak Village
Mountwood Park
Route 2, Box 56
Waverly, WV 26184

Byrd. Robert C.
Senator
United States Senate
133 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Canfield, Jack
Special Assistant to the Governor
of the State of West Virginia
State of West Virginia
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Champagne, Dr. Ronald
Dean of the College
Salem College
Salem, WV 26426

Corbitt, Bill
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 37
Waverly, WV 26184

Cullen, Ray
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
606 47th Street
Vienna, WV 26105

Elder, Loren T.
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
Evan Dale Terrace
DuPont Road
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Fittro, James A.
President
Wood County Commission
Court House
3rd & Court Square
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Ford, Larry S.
Programmer/Scheduler, White Oak Village
Mountwood Park
Route 2, Box 56
Waverly, WV 26184

Forsythe, Patria
Staff Director
Sub-Committee on the Handicapped
4230 Dirkson Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Huggins, Charles
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
26 Lynwood Drive
Vienna, WV 26105

Humphreys, Robert R.
Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare
Room 3006 Switzer Building
330 C. Street-Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20201

Kennedy, Kenneth
Rehabilitation Administrator I-Recreation
West Virginia Rehabilitation Center
Institute, WV 25112

Kissick, William, M.D.
Professor of Public Health and
Preventive Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Ellet Lane
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19119

Latuchie, Dick
Managing Director
GLS Associates
Suite 2002
1616 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Leach, Marvin
Wood County Commissioner
613 Eastlawn Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Lehew, Edward R.
Executive Director
Mountwood Park
Route 2, Box 56
Waverly, WV 26184

Lehew, Shirley
Executive Assistant
Mountwood Park
Route 2, Box 56
Waverly, WV 26184

Manjone, Joe, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Recreation
Shepherd College
P.O. Box 277
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Marshall, Reverend Samuel J.
The First United Presbyterian Church
1341 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Matheny, Michael
President
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
1009 51st Street
Vienna. WV 26105

Mollohan, Robert H.
Congressman
U.S. Congress
Room 339
Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Moore, Hope
Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Nesbitt, John A., Ed.D.
Professor of Recreation Education
and Director
National Institute on Special Recreation
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Pacinelli, Ralph, Ph.D.
Director
U.S. Department of HEW
Office of Human Development
3535 Market Street
P.O. Box 13716
Philadelphia, Pa. 19101

Pearson, R. John C., M.B.
Professor & Chairman
Department of Community Medicine
West Virgirla University
School of Medicine
Morgantown, WV 26505

Pitts, Harry W.
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
2 Fairway Acres
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Randolph, Jennings
Senator
United States Senate
5121 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rinehart, Tom
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
Route #3
Walker, WV 26180

Roberts, Clarence
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
3101 Hemlock Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Rockefeller, IV John D.
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Russell, Harold
Chairman
President's Committee on
Employment of the Handicapped
Room 636
1111 20th Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20036

Shaver, Holmes
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
Mill Run Road
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Smith, James E.
Vice-President
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
13 Evan Dale Terrace
DuPont Road
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Viscardi, Dr. Henry
President
Human Resources Center
Albertson, Long Island, N. Y. 11507

Wade, Reverend Francis H.
The Memorial Church of the
Good Shepherd, Episcopal
903 Charles Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Westfall, Jo Ann
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
Parkersburg Community College
Route #47
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Williams, Susie
Wood County Parks and
Recreation Commission
17 Ashwood Drive
Vienna, WV 26105